

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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APPROVED BY EUR/CE:DANDERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USBERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, US, UK, FR, UR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: ACCESS RIGHTS FOR FREIGHT TRAINS TO BERLIN

REF: USBER 1331

1. RIGHT OF 13 FREIGHT TRAINS (AND THREE DAILY PASSENGER TRAINS) TO TRANSIT GDR TO AND FROM WEST BERLIN QUADRIPARTITELY AGREED ARRANGEMENT DATING FROM 1945- (CONL/P 45/27). DEPARTMENT DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT BASIC RIGHT TO HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS WORKED OUT BETWEEN GDR AND FRG INVOLVING MATTERS OF SCHEDULING OR CROSSING POINTS. THIS WOULD INCLUDE SO-CALLED HELMSTED AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 1949 AND JUNE/JULY 1965 AGREEMENT (REFTEL).

2. WE ARE NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECT WHICH CHANGE OF ATTITUDE OF GDR MIGHT HAVE SINCE IT IS NOT LEGALLY INVOLVED IN BASIC QUESTION. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERNED THAT THE FAILURE OF THE ALLIES TO EXERCISE THEIR

RIGHTS EITHER BECAUSE OF NEGLECT OR DUE TO LACK OF
SUBSIDIES, COULD LEAD TO THEIR EROSION. IF IT HAS NOT
ALREADY DONE SO, MISSION SHOULD RAISE ISSUE WITH OTHER

ALLIED MISSIONS AND DISCUSS BEST POSSIBLE WAY TO
APPROACH SENAT TO INSURE THAT ALLIED (AND ULTIMATELY
BERLIN'S) INTERESTS ARE PROPERLY SAFEGUARDED.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE AWARE OF FINANCIAL PRESSURES ON
SENAT AND FRG, AND ARE NOT INSENSITIVE TO SENAT'S NEED
TO SEEK MORE ECONOMIC WAYS FOR DEALING WITH CITY'S
PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW SENAT ACTION IN
THIS SENSITIVE AREA DEVELOP WITHOUT CONTINUAL AND CLOSE
CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES LEST OUR SILENCE ON MATTER
BE TAKEN AS SIGN OF ACQUIESCENCE AND WE SUBSEQUENTLY
FIND OURSELVES PRESENTED BY SENAT WITH FAIT ACCOMPLI
VERY MUCH TO OUR DISLIKING. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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